GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3616
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2017
Drip Irrigation with Water Soluble Fertilizers
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the Government has encouraged farmers to adopt drip irrigation with water soluble fertilizers in place of flow irrigation with conventional fertilizers along with the achievements thereof;

(b) whether the yield of various crops using drip irrigation with water soluble fertilizers is higher than the conventional fertilizers in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the demand and supply of water soluble fertilizers in the country as on date, State-wise;

(d) whether the import of the water soluble fertilizers have increased in the country during each of the last three years and the current year;

(e) if so, the details thereof, country-wise along with the names of Indian companies producing water soluble fertilizers in the country, company-wise; and

(f) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to promote indigenous production of the water soluble fertilizers in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a): Government of India is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY). Micro Irrigation (Drip & Sprinkler Systems) is promoted under the "Per Drop More Crop" component of PMKSY. The Drip irrigation system includes fertigation attachments for application of liquid fertilizer. So far an area of about 33.82 lakh ha. has been covered under Drip Irrigation in the country.

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(b): Use of drip irrigation along with fertigation technology (use of water soluble fertilizers) increases water and nutrient use efficiency which results in higher crop productivity. As per the impact evaluation study on Micro Irrigation (2014), increase in the yield of various crops is given below:-

S.No.	Crop	Average Productivity, MT/Ha	
		Without Drip	With Drip
1.	Fruits	13.52	19.25
2.	Vegetables	11.40	17.41

(c) to (e): To meet the supply requirement beyond domestic production, liquid fertilizer is imported which is given at Annexure-I. the names of Indian companies producing water soluble fertilizers are at Annexure-II.

(f): To encourage more use of water soluble fertilizers, water soluble complex fertilizers have been incorporated in the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985. The general specifications of 100% water soluble mixture of fertilizers have also been specified under the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985. Besides this, the Indian Council of agricultural Research (ICAR) imparts training, organizers field demonstrations to educate farmers on advantages of use of water soluble fertilizers.